

biocompatible material having a series of U-shaped bends.

Klein USPN 5,593,442 discloses a radially expansible luminal prosthesis in which a pair of body segments is joined by a serpentine ring and two pairs of beam members.

Pinchasik et al USPN 5,449,373 discloses an articulated stent including a flexible connector connecting two substantially rigid segments.

Orth et al USPN 5,591,197 discloses an intraluminal stent in which projecting barbs are formed during expansion of the stent.

Lau et al USPN 5,514,154 discloses a stent composed of interconnected expandable cylindrical elements of ribbon-like undulating pattern.

Horn et al USPN 5,591,230 discloses a stent in the form of a wire of multi-loop design whose length remains the same before and after expansion.

Early action on the merits of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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